

## **REMARKS**

Claims 20-37 are pending in the application, claims 1-19 being canceled and claims 20-37 being newly added herein. Claims 20 and 30 are the only independent claims.

### ***Restriction Requirement***

Claims 9-14 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner owing to a Restriction Requirement. The Restriction Requirement has been made final. Accordingly, applicant has canceled claims 9-14 without prejudice to a representation of those claims in a subsequent divisional application.

### ***Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103***

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by published European patent application document No. EP 118,613 (Vohrer).

Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vohrer in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,977,440 to Phillippi.

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vohrer in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,332,160 to Ruskin.

In response to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), that claim has been replaced by new independent claims 20 and 30.

**Claim 30** As set forth in claim 30, a multiple layer reinforced flexible hose comprises at least one first inner tubular layer made of extruded plastic material, at least one second outer tubular layer made of extruded plastic material, and a tubular reinforcement made of a textile material interposed between the first or inner layer and the second or outer layer. The inner and outer layers are homogeneously joined in correspondence of their mutual contact surface so as to define a wall having an overall predetermined thickness. An end portion of that wall has an increased thickness to provide watertight sealing action with external connection organs. The increased thickness is substantially constant along substantially the entire extent of the end portion.

In contrast, Vohrer, the primary reference relied on by the Examiner, discloses a hose with an end portion of increased thickness where that end portion comprises two sections, a first section (9, 15, 23, 24) of an increasing (varying) thickness and a second section (10, 16, 25, 26) of a constant thickness. Vohrer neither discloses nor suggests an end portion having an increased thickness where that increased thickness is substantially constant along substantially the entire extent of the end portion. The structure of Vohrer is evidently necessary pursuant to the teachings of that reference to enhance flexibility and avoid the risk of local bending and cracking. In contrast to Vohrer, applicant claims a hose where there is an abrupt change in thickness toward an end of the hose for purposes of enhancing a watertight connection with external fittings.

The other references are similarly devoid of teaching or suggestion to provide a hose with an end portion of increased thickness, where the thickness is substantially constant along substantially the entire length of the end portion.

Claim 20 is deemed to distinguish over the prior art for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 30.

### ***Conclusion***

For the foregoing reasons, independent claims 20 and 30, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are deemed to be in condition for allowance. An early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

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Respectfully submitted,  
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